

## March 8- Written Service

**Praise Team-** Lesley Bartholomew, Katie Kirby, Emily Sudbeck, Robin Thompson, Merlin Thompson, Neil Bartholomew, and Collen Turner

**Special Music-**Lesley Bartholomew, Katie Kirby, Emily Sudbeck and Robin Thompson

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who tests our hearts, not to destroy us, but to reveal the depth of our trust.

All: We come to honor the Lord, who asks for our devotion and calls us to surrender what we hold most dear.

Leader: Like Abraham, we are called to walk in faith, trusting that God will provide a way when there seems to be no way.

All: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

### Song: Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah

Declaring the Word of the Lord.

And these are the days of your servant, Moses,  
Righteousness being restored;

And though these are days of great trials,  
Of famine and darkness and sword.  
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,  
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

Behold, He comes riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call.  
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
And out of Zion's Hill salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel,  
The dry bones becoming as flesh.  
And these are the days of Your servant, David,  
Rebuilding a temple of praise.

And these are the days of the harvest,

The fields are as white in the world.  
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard  
Declaring the World of the Lord.

Behold, He comes riding on the clouds,  
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call.  
So lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,  
And out of Zion's Hill salvation comes.

### **Prayer**

#### **Song: The Power of the Cross**

O to see the dawn of the brightest day,  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then  
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This the power of the cross;  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath;  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see the pain written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Every bitter thought, every evil deed,  
Crowning Your blood-stained brow.

This the power of the cross;  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath;  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

O to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love.

This the power of the cross,  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost.  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

## **Announcements**

**Special Music: "Gethsemane" by Keith and Kristyn Getty sung by Lesley, Katie, Emily and Robin**

## **Congregational Prayer**

### **Song: #327- The Old Rugged Cross (vs. 1,3,4)**

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross,  
Where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

In the old rugged cross,  
Stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see;

For 'twas on that old cross  
Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then He'll call me someday  
To my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,

And exchange it someday for a crown.

### **Offering/Offertory**

**Offering Song: O How He Loves You and Me**

**Offering Prayer**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Scripture: Genesis 22: 1-14**

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>2</sup>Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

<sup>3</sup>Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup>He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup>Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup>Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup>Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup>When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>12</sup>"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram<sup>[a]</sup> caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

### **Message**

- Intro-Easter Eggs-subtle references hidden in movies or books that point to something else
  - The example I want to start with today comes from Raiders of the Lost Ark
    - Indiana Jones movies were made by George Lucas, who created Star Wars
    - Both also star Harrison Ford

- There are a few of these Easter Eggs hidden throughout the Indiana Jones movies
    - My favorite is a hieroglyphic image off to the side at one point
      - *Show image on screen*
    - If you look closer, you see that the picture shown in Indiana Jones is of R2D2 and C3PO, the droids from Star Wars
  - Similarly, in the weeks leading up to Easter we are looking for subtle references to Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection in other stories in the Bible
    - As we read today's story from the Old Testament, see what you notice as Easter Eggs pointing us to Jesus
- Read Gen 22:1-14
  - What Easter eggs did you find? What might point to Jesus?
    - *Take responses from congregation*
  - One detail that is interesting here, but not as directly connected to Jesus is the location
    - Mount Moriah is a hill right by Jerusalem
    - A hill that David later became of threshing floor that David bought
      - This is when a plague broke out against Israel in response to David conducting a census God warned him not to
    - 2 Samuel 24:21-25
      - Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped." Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. Your Majesty, Araunah[d] gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you." But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels[e] of silver for them. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.
    - That altar was later turned into something else 2 Chronicles 3:1
      - Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.
  - So the place where Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac later became a spot David bought (because he wouldn't sacrifice to the Lord that which costs him nothing) which became the location of the temple where sacrifices would be made for the people to pay the price for their sins

- Maybe it connects to Jesus after all
- But the big Easter Egg, the main connection is sacrifice
  - .Abraham offering Isaac
    - Picture this event in your head
      - How old is Isaac? How old does Abraham look?
      - Isaac is not necessarily a child
      - He is certainly old enough to carry firewood up the mountain
      - Even if he's 10 and Abe is 110, Isaac is surely able to prevent father tying him up or hurting him, either flat out overpower him or at least outrunning him
        - Some scholars put Isaac in his 30's here
    - But either way, it's clear that Isaac cooperates with sacrifice plan
      - THEREFORE sacrifice is being offered by Abraham AND Isaac
  - .Jesus was also the sacrifice being offered by his Father
    - He could have resisted, could have said no
      - We see His prayers in Gethsemane
      - Father let this cup pass from me, but not my will but yours be done
    - This sacrifice was also Father and Son working together
- Where Abe and Isaac's sacrifice to God was stopped and replaced
  - God's sacrifice for us wasn't
  - Because there was no replacement we could offer
  - Because Jesus was the once and for all sacrifice that we could never bring for God, so He brought it for us
  - We could never offer a sacrifice worth enough to make up for our sins
    - Nothing valuable enough to be worthy of a perfect and infinite God
    - Nothing to earn his promised blessings
  - But God will, and has, provided
    - His son, His only son, whom he loves
    - To pay our debts, to show His love, to cement our relationship with Him
  - This is where the Trinity language gets fuzzy
    - Yes, the Father provided His Son
    - AND Yes, the Son (just like Isaac) was also involved in this process
    - Was also willingly sacrificing Himself
    -
  - The passage says God Himself will provide, but the reality is that in the fullness of time God Provided Himself
- So what are the takeaways for us this Lent?
  - Give thanks for Jesus' sacrifice for us. Spend time reflecting on God who both provided a sacrifice and was the loving sacrifice offered in our place.
  - Look for ways to cooperate with the Father in offering ourselves for others. This can range from little sacrifices of time or unexpected generosity to larger sacrifices that cost us more dearly as we express the love of God to other people.

**Song: #23 The God of Abraham Praise (vs. 1,3,4)**

The God of Abraham praise,  
Who reigns enthroned above,  
The Ancient of eternal days  
And God of love.

Jehovah, great I AM,  
By earth and heaven confessed:  
We bow and bless the sacred name  
Forever blest.

The God who reigns on high  
The great archangels sing,  
And "Holy, holy, holy," cry,  
"Almighty King!"

Who was and is the same  
And evermore shall be:  
Eternal Father, great I AM,  
We worship Thee.

The whole triumphant host  
Give thanks to God on high;  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"  
They ever cry.

Hail, Abraham's God and mine!  
With heaven our songs we raise:  
All might and majesty are Thine  
And endless praise.

### **Benediction**

### **Congregational Meeting**